CASTLE ROCK WATER

INTRODUCTION:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 4.04, 13.12, AND 15.48.020 OF THE CASTLE ROCK MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO WATER DEDICATION, PUBLIC SERVICES, AND LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION CRITERIA MANUAL

SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

TOWN OF
CASTLE ROCK
COLORADO

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

BACKGROUND

- **State of Colorado and Western Context**
  - Agriculture
  - Frequent droughts / changing weather patterns
  - Colorado River
  - State Legislation
  - Aurora
  - Memo of Understanding by biggest Western water providers
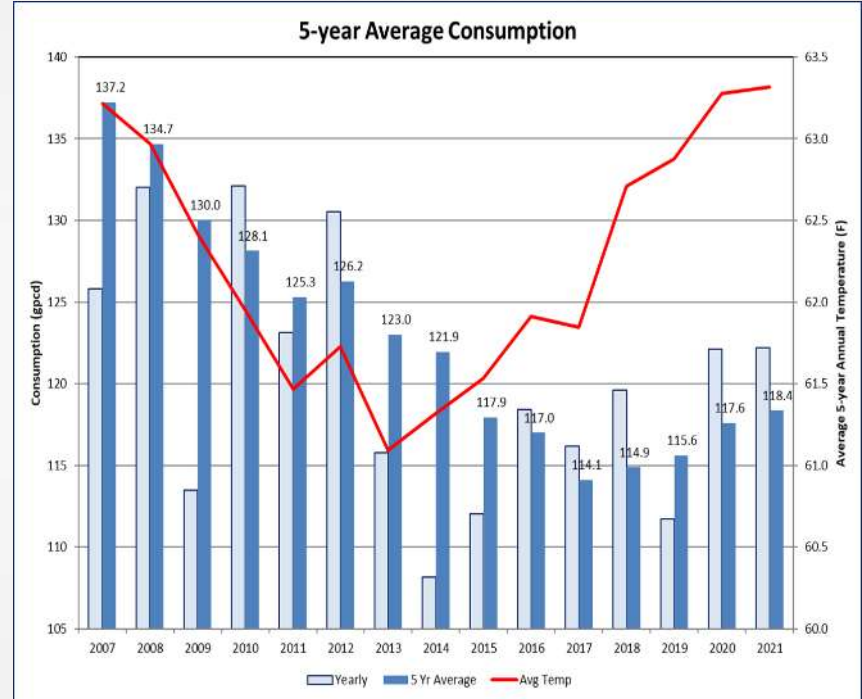 - State Water Plan

- **Castle Rock Context**
  - Half of water demand used outdoors
  - Peak demands 4 to 5 times winter demand
  - Infrastructure for peak demand – very expensive, will drive rates and fees up over time
  - Irrigation water is lost (not available for reuse even though our water rights allow for it)
  - Most turf grass in Castle Rock "non-functional"
  - Over 3,000 acres of irrigated landscape

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Reduce per capita demand to 100 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) by 2050

- Reduce peak demands

- Implement ColoradoScapes Plan and reduce high water using turf

- Turf reductions for new development - has greatest usage reduction benefit

- Water budgets set by **plant type** and irrigated area for new development

5-year Average Consumption

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

OVERVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL CHANGES

- No turf in front yards for new homes

- Backyards for new homes no more than 500 square feet of irrigated turf

- ColoradoScape design instead

- Swimming pools and water features will reduce total allowed turf

- Incentivize front yard and backyard landscapes to be installed by home builder

500 square feet of Experimental Tahoma Bermuda (super low water using turf) at Castle Rock Admin Building

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

COLORADOSCAPE

ColoradoScape: is a natural landscape, comprised of low to very-low water-use-plant material, which blends in with the native Castle Rock landscape. This landscaping utilizes a combination of hardscape and plant materials, providing a variety of colors, textures, sizes, shapes, and seasonal interest.
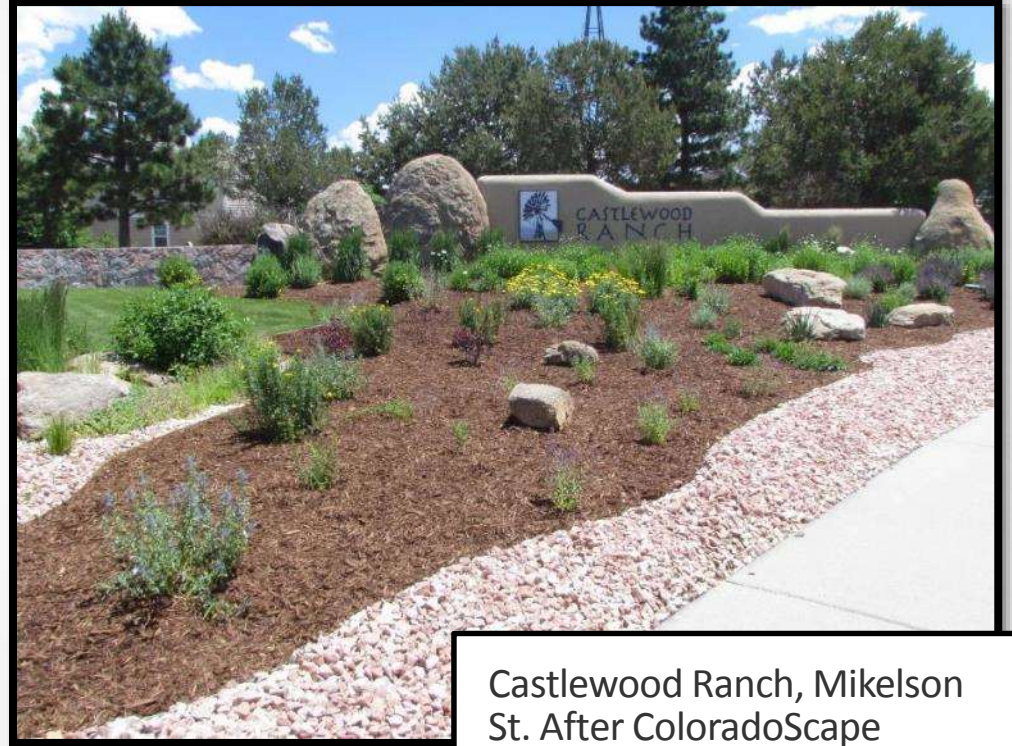
2020 Winner

2019 ColoradoScape Contest Winner

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE
OVERVIEW OF NONRESIDENTIAL CHANGES

- For non-residential
  - Eliminate non-functional turf
- Non-functional = areas of turf where play or recreational activities cannot or do not take place.
- Passive use areas still necessary
- This includes apartments, condominiums, townhomes, HOA common areas, and commercial businesses.

Castlewood Ranch, Mikelson St. After ColoradoScape

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

TIMELINE AND IMPACTS

- New turf limits in effect January 1st 2023
- 0.67 program and WEP would be discontinued
- System Development Fees (SDFs) lowered for new homes for home builders that install front and back yard including proration like under current WEP program
- For home builders that do not install both front and back, they get no SDF discount & must still design back yard
- Costs for Coloradoscape appear competitive with current landscape types
- Positive impact on long term rates and fees

During construction and post-completion of a ColoradoScape in Town

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

OUTREACH

- Economic Development Committee Water Subcommittee meetings monthly since November 2021
- Developer's Roundtable
- Part of Water Resources Strategic Master Plan discussion and approvals
- Economic Development Council Executive Committee
- Economic Development Council Board
- Homebuilders luncheons

LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

BUDGET & RECOMMENDATIONS

- Budget:
  - ➤ Lower SDF revenues and lower future customer revenues
  - ➤ Reduced O&M costs for peak demand infrastructure
  - ➤ Future savings on CRW CIP Projects: $56-$72 million
- Recommendations
  - ➤ Castle Rock Water Commission
  - ➤ Staff

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

"I move to approve the changes as proposed, and direct staff to bring the Ordinance for Council consideration at the September 20, 2022 Council Meeting."

ALTERNATIVE MOTIONS:

"I move to approve the changes as proposed, with the following conditions or changes: (list conditions or changes) and direct staff to bring the Ordinance for Council consideration at the September 20, 2022 Council Meeting."

"I move to continue this item to the Town Council meeting on ____date to allow additional time to (list information needed)."

ANY QUESTIONS?